



Informational Primer

VISION/MISSION:

The Gawad Kalinga Builders Corps develops future leaders in sustainable community development by molding the natural talents of its volunteers into organic solutions to poverty, empowering them to give their best for the least.

Gawad Kalinga Builders Corps is committed to nurturing faith, loving the poor, developing servant leaders, and fostering community building among world citizens through full-time volunteer service throughout a 1-2 year volunteer service commitment.

What is GK Builders Corps - Basic Info

- Full-time volunteers committed to serving for 1-2 years
- Live, work, and grow in a GK Community
- Nurture your faith by loving God through service to the poor
- Make a significant contribution to the poverty alleviation programs of GK
- Offer your gifts, training, and expertise to the poor while furthering your skills in your career field.
- Develop leadership skills to continue making a difference in the future
- Usually degreed professionals with big minds, but bigger hearts.

Who are GK Builders Corps?

Gawad Kalinga Builders Corps are committed volunteers that desire to live their faith through service to the poor. GKBC volunteers are redefining “elite” to be a standard of servant leadership focused on using the best talents and the greatest gifts to empower the poor to lift themselves out of poverty. Their desire to love God and serve the poor opens them to encountering the divine in the human relationships that grow where service happens. Understanding that only by working together can we eradicate poverty, GKBC volunteers commit to working and growing in a community, not only sharing their gifts, but also learning and growing from the gifts of others around them. GKBC are infused with a hope and belief that, despite adversity, we can build a better world. Their free-thinking idealism provides the courage to try new ideas, the energy to learn from failures, and the inspiration to keep improving on successes. These are God-given gifts which GK Builders

Corps volunteers desire to mold and use for the benefit of all, especially for the poor among us, who are the greatest in God's kingdom.

What Can They Do?

GKBC volunteers serve in every aspect of the Gawad Kalinga movement. By working directly with the poor, GKBC volunteers put their faith into action daily, serving God by loving their brothers and sisters. Living and working in a GK village offers a GKBC volunteer a transformative experience of love and community. They work closely with the GK Builders Institutes to research, develop, and implement new GK programs and methods. GKBC take leadership roles in new and on-going programs, offering their ideas and gaining valuable field experience, both in the sites and in the office. As leaders, GKBC volunteers empower other volunteers to share their gifts throughout the wholistic GK structure. GKBC become the primary advocates for the poor among local, national and international entities, especially beyond their initial 1-2 year commitment.

How Can GKBC Volunteers Grow?

Faith, leadership, and skills formation are on-going for the duration of the GKBC experience. Beginning with the volunteer's arrival, through the orientation process, and throughout the length of his or her commitment. GKBC are offered an in-depth orientation to Filipino history and culture, as well an in-depth review of the history and structure of Gawad Kalinga. While some skills preparation does occur during the orientation period, GKBC are expected to arrive ready to utilize their educational and career training, and to learn from new opportunities and challenges encountered during the work experience. An on-going reflection process helps give shape and meaning to the volunteer's first-hand experiences by guiding the search for the divine among the daily routines. These first-hand experiences can lead GKBC volunteers into a deeper understanding of themselves, into an intimate relationship with God experienced through simplicity, and into a tight bond of true solidarity with the poor of the world. Ultimately, GKBC volunteers move forward having made a significant contribution to the current situation of poverty, taking a greater understanding of what makes their life meaningful, and how to live a lifestyle of service as a leader and an advocate for the poor, wherever life may take them.

How can the Program Grow?

The Gawad Kalinga Builders Corps program offers a support framework that empowers volunteers to work full-time for 1-2 years in any aspect of the Gawad Kalinga movement. Volunteers are placed in all of the seven major areas of GK: Shelter, Health, Child and Youth Development, Productivity, Environment, Values Formation and Mabuhay (Welcome and Hospitality). In addition to these seven basic areas, volunteers also serve in the GK National office providing administrative support for on-going programs. In connection with the Gawad Kalinga Builders Institutes, GKBC volunteers can be placed directly with research efforts related to their background. In this capacity, they can assist with the research directly, help design new programs based on previous research, and/or implement and give feedback on new GK programs. Certain corporate partnerships are also being explored whereby a volunteer who otherwise cannot financially

support their own volunteer effort works through GKBC for two years sponsored by a certain company. At the end of their commitment with GKBC, they are then committed to their sponsor company according to the terms of their private agreement. The volunteer offers their GK experience and field training to support their work within the sponsor company, as well as helping the company identify on-going ways to support those in need.

GKBC also has the potential to become the host of many related short-term volunteer activities. As an example, an individual coming for only one month with a background in banking and an interest in GK productivity ventures can be paired with a GKBC volunteer heading a productivity project. The volunteers become mutually supportive, and the short-term volunteer is able to make a direct contribution to a much larger, most likely on-going project, even if they can only commit for a short stay. Similarly, other GK1MB volunteers that are regular over many months, although unable to be full-time volunteers, can also contribute to GKBC assignments, providing regular support and expanding the GK community.

In time, GKBC should be able to offer a supportive structure for long-term volunteers in GK coming both from the Philippines and from countries abroad. The GK Builders Corps can become the new face of GK on the ground, allowing the central staff to remain fairly small, but supported by a huge number of committed volunteers that are designing and implementing the successful GK models.

Health Care as a Volunteer:

GK is currently unable to provide health insurance to its volunteers. We are working to provide it, but it is often difficult with the majority of all donations going to administrative costs. Below is a missionary health care provider that gives estimates of \$396 for 1 year.

<http://www.missionaryhealth.net/atlas.htm>

Costs while serving as a volunteer:

Though you are provided a stipend of \$1,000 by Seafood City which will be distributed quarterly during your year of volunteering, your overall expenses in the Philippines will run higher than that. Through a style of simple living, we estimate up to \$400/month while living with a family in Manila and \$200/month while living in the province. This estimate is based on public transit (not taxis as your main mode of transit) and simple meals (not American restaurants on a regular basis).

Volunteer Annual Expenses	Dollars	PHP (40:\$1)
Food	\$2,500.00	P100,000.00
Missionary Insurance	\$400.00	P12,000.00
Local Transportation	\$625.00	P25,000.00
National Transportation	\$200.00	P8,000.00
Materials for Work	\$250.00	P10,000.00
Extended VISA	\$90.00	P3,500.00
	\$4,065.00	P158,500.00

Gawad Kalinga will pay for your travel if you are sent to the province for your work. You can also submit reimbursement requests for goods purchased for GK work if it necessary.

Immunizations:

There are no required immunizations for travelers visiting the Philippines, but there are many suggested immunizations for precautionary purposes. Please refer to the CDC website and your doctor for advice.

As to Malaria pills, there is only one area of the Philippines where Malaria is prone (Palawan) and it is unlikely that you'll be visiting that area. Upon the chance that you'll be going there for work or vacation, you may plan for 1 months supply of malaria pills. You can also acquire these in the Philippines if you decide to wait until you are in the Philippines to decide.

<http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/destinationPhilippines.aspx>

Job Placement:

As GK serves in a holistic manner, no matter your passion, there is a job for you. It is important that you determine what kind of work you want to be doing. If GK seems a bit overwhelming to you to determine that, you are not alone. Refer to the website to get an idea of which program of GK you wish to be working in and then we can work from there to make sure you are doing the work you wish to be doing while serving the greater mission of GK. This process will begin before you head over to the Philippines, but there is a good chance that your exact job will not be defined until you are in Manila.

What about my student loans?

Unfortunately Gawad Kalinga is not able to pay off your students loans while you are volunteering as a GKBC. However, we can help you defer your Federal Loans for the time you are volunteering in the Philippines. You can access the forms online at:

<http://www.staffordloan.com/repayment/federal-student-loan-deferment.php>

For Private Loan Companies, it is up to them whether or not to defer your loans. We can provide you an official ANCOP/GK request form, but it will be up to the individual companies. Please just let us know if you need this form.

As we always hope to improve our available information, if you have suggestions of what information should be included on this page, please email us at gkbuilderscorps@ancopusa.org. Thank you!